

LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING STRIKE AUTHORIZATION VOTE BY CALIFORNIA FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Negotiations for a new contract for faculty within the California State University system continue. The 23,000 member faculty last received a raise in 2003.

SACRAMENTO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi on Wednesday released the following statement regarding the strike authorization vote by the California Faculty Association:

"Today, the California Faculty Association announced that its members have voted overwhelmingly to authorize the first-ever strike by faculty within the California State University system. While I am deeply concerned about the negative impact such a strike would have on students, I do applaud the faculty members for their willingness over the past 23 months of hard negotiations to continue educating our students without a new contract. It is that deep commitment, along with their experience and extraordinarily important responsibility, which demands these educators be given a swift resolution to the problem.

"The announcement today also highlights the fact that while administrative salaries have substantially increased and five tuition hikes have been implemented in recent years, faculty last received a raise (3.5%) in 2003. As I have said many times, California was built upon the successes of its educational system. Our leadership in technology, agriculture and cultural fields is grounded largely in the contributions of those who have been educated in the CSU and UC systems. To continue this record of excellence, faculty members must receive support and salaries that reflect the importance and quality of their efforts. In addition, students should be charged reasonable fees at a level that will not force many of the most needy to drop out of the system. And administrators should provide the support and prudent oversight necessary to responsibly guide these institutions of higher learning into the future.

"As a CSU Trustee, I continue to be optimistic that an agreement can be reached soon. I will continue to work with both parties in this dispute to find a speedy and equitable solution. We owe our faculty and students no less."

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